

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 HA-05

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P 251719Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4712

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG IS XF

SUBJECT: CARTER STATEMENT SHARPENS FOCUS ON DECLARATION

- OF PRINCIPLES

REF: CAIRO 2708 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDDLE EAST COMMENTS SENSATIONALLY COVERED IN JAN 25 PRESS TOGETHER WITH VIEW THAT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES MUST STIPULATE WITHDRAWAL AND "SELF-DETERMINATION ON BASIS OF CARTER ASWAN DECLARATION." EGYPT PROCEEDING WITH "MASSIVE" DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE. RESUMPTION MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS VIEWED CIRCUMSPECTLY. EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO URGE U.S. TO ASSUME EFFECTIVE ROLE. EGYPTIANS BELIEVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY "IF U.S. STANDS UP FOR ITS OWN VIEWS." PERSONAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN "ANTI-SEMITISM" TONED DOWN BUT COMMENTARY DOUBTFUL OF ISRAELI SINCERITY. END SUMMARY.

1. CARTER STATEMENT. JANUARY 25 PRESS GAVE SENSATIONAL COVERAGE TO WHITE HOUSE MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT, FEATURING CARTER READINESS CONTINUE EXCHANGES TO REACH STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR "PRACTICE OF QUIET DIPLOMACY."

2. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. STORIES ALSO HIGHLIGHTED MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND AMBASSADOR EILTS JAN 24 "AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST". ACCORDING PRESS, EGYPTIANS HAVE COMPLETED WRITTEN REPLY TO U.S. DRAFT STATEMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPLES WHICH SADAT OUTLINED TO AMBASSADOR "AT HIS REQUEST". ACCORDING AHAM, EGYPTIAN VIEW IS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES SHOULD (A) STIPULATE "WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES" AND INADMISSIBILITY OF OCCUPATION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE; AND (B) STIPULATE THE FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS DECLARED BY U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER IN ASWAN. PRESIDENT CARTER DECLARED THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE. "THIS IS THE MINIMUM REQUIRED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

3. FAITH IN AMERICA. AKHBAR EDITOR MOUSSA SABRY TOOK JAUNDICED VIEW OF CARTER STATEMENT. SAID EGYPTIANS SUPPORT "QUIET DIPLOMACY". HOWEVER, IF JAMES RESTON ANALYSIS CORRECT, "U.S. ATTITUDE WILL BE ONE ADVOCATING SLOW, NOT QUIET, DIPLOMACY." SABRY WARNED AGAINST THIS "NEGATIVE AMERICAN DIPLOMACY." IF AMERICA RESORTS TO PROTRACTED PATIENCE BEFORE IT DEFINES ITS ATTITUDE, "IT WILL AFFORD SOVIETS AND THEIR AGENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SABOTAGE GREAT HOPES AND CONFIDENCE PLACED BY ARAB PEOPLES IN AMERICA'S SOUND AND ABLE STAND."

4. MILITARY COMMITTEE. FRONT PAGES FEATURED REPORTS FROM "WELL INFORMED SOURCES" IN JERUSALEM THAT ISRAELIS WILL AGREE TO WEIZMAN DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO JAN 29 OR 30. POSTPONEMENT OF WEIZMAN U.S. TRIP CITED AS EVIDENCE. ALSO QUOTED BEGIN US TV INTERVIEW EXPRESSING EXPECTATIONS THAT TALKS WOULD START "NEXT WEEK" IF EGYPTIANS HALTED HOSTILE PRESS CAMPAIGN.

5. DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN. MUBARAK WILL BEGIN TOUR OF TEN STATES -- SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, IRAN, OMAN, YAR, UAE, QATAR AND BAHRAIN -- JAN 28. CAMPAIGN DESIGNED "PLACE FACTS OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE" BEFORE WORLD LEADERS.

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JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

AMBASSADOR ABDEL MEGUID, HIS MISSION AS CHIEF DELEGATE TO CAIRO CONFERENCE ENDED, HAS RETURNED TO RESUME DUTIES AT UN AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATIONS FOR DELEGATION TO U.S. HEADED BY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I (DATE NOT YET FIXED).

6. COMMENTARY. PRESS HAS TONED DOWN PERSONAL ASSAULTS ON BEGIN ON DIRECTIONS FROM PRESIDENCY. THOUGH STILL CRITICAL OF HIS INTENT AND VIEWS, COLUMNS NO LONGER SUGGEST THAT JEWISHNESS IS REASON FOR HIS APPROACH TO PEACE PROCESS (SEPTEL). GUMHURIYYA SAID ISRAEL WILL BE MISTAKEN IF IT BELIEVES RESUMPTION OF MINISTERIAL TALKS IS END IN ITSELF AND IF IT ADOPTS ITS TRADITIONAL NEGOTIATING TACTICS IN EFFORT "TO BLOCK ROAD TO FRUITFUL TALKS." BEGIN ASCRIBES PROPOSALS TO EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS THEY NEVER SUBMITTED.

7. COMMENT. TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE MAKES CLEAR IMPORTANCE GOE ATTACHES TO STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. VERSION OF PRINCIPLES FLOATED BY AHRAH MOVES EGYPTIAN POSITION REMAINING DISTANCE TOWARDS THAT OF U.S. ON QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION (AS ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT ASWAN). MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI CONFIRMED TO FOREIGN JOURNALIST THAT AHRAH VERSION ACCURATELY REFLECTS GOE POSITION. MOST EGYPTIANS, HOWEVER, SEEM CONVINCED ISRAEL REJECTS BOTH U.S. AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS ON TERRITORIAL AND PALESTINIAN QUESTIONS. WHERE THESE COINCIDE, EGYPTIANS EAGER "TO SEE U.S. STAND UP FOR ITS OWN VIEWS." EILTS

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TAGS: SOPN, MPOL, PROP, EG, IS, XF
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